



A MESSAGE FROM THE ARMY LEADERSHIP

This is an exciting time to be a Soldier! Decisively engaged in a war on terror that has lasted for more than four years, we are simultaneously reshaping the force to be an Army of campaign quality with joint and expeditionary capabilities — transforming to win the war today, while preparing the Army for future challenges.

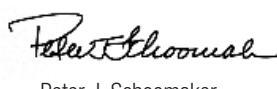
Towards this end, we are rapidly configuring our active and reserve components into modular formations while developing the Future Combat Systems to ensure dominance of any adversary that we will face in the 21st century. Our reserve-component forces now serve as an operational reserve, vice the strategic reserve paradigm of the Cold War. At the same time, we are adjusting our global basing posture to ensure that the Army is positioned to shape and respond to the inevitable challenges of a complex, uncertain future.


This long war has also provided the opportunity to accelerate change across the entire force, not just the leading edge. We have shifted the center of gravity of Army forces (previously focused almost exclusively on traditional challenges) to provide a better balance of capabilities to address traditional, irregular, disruptive and catastrophic challenges. The changed Army culture is readily apparent today in forces deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq, where a new breed of warrior has emerged — one more akin to pentathletes who are able to rapidly transition between disparate tasks with relative ease. Like the American Soldiers of generations past, today's warriors are distinguishing themselves with tremendous acts of courage and valor as they light the path of freedom for others.

We have the confidence of our nation as we fight a protracted war with an all-volunteer force for the first time in our history. The human dimension of this war has already eclipsed the technological dimension. While the nature of the conflict may evolve, the unifying constant is the need for “boots on the ground.” More than a half-million Soldiers from all components have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, with more than 260,000 Soldiers currently serving in 120 countries around the world. Success in this war will rest increasingly on their ability to interact with foreign governments, militaries and populations to create the conditions for effective governance and long-term socio-political progress.

As we go forward, Soldiers will remain the centerpiece of our Army. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for our great nation. May God bless you, your families, the Army and the United States of America.


Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army


Peter J. Schoomaker
General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff


Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the Army